

## Great Places: Great presentation

Wednesday afternoon was an interesting time in Denison, Iowa, when a dedicated group of Denison citizens who have worked hard to put together a special presentation, came together with fellow citizens hoping to put "our best foot forward."

Over 140 communities and other entities are competing for one of only three spots to be designated one of Iowa's "Great Places".

Before the program, the candidates had been reduced by almost half but Denison still finds itself in the running. What Denison needed was a good program and a good turnout of people from the community to show their support.

As part of the program and behind the stage, I was unable to see the people's reaction and could only hear the applause until close to the end when I was able to slip back to the rear of the theater. At that point I studied the people watching and you could have heard a pin drop. Everyone seemed to have their eyes glued to the flashing scenes roll by of the Denison of the past, all the way up to the present.

I stood at the back of the theater as the people came out and almost to the person, they grabbed my hand and several commented,

"Everyone in Denison should see this presentation." There was a lot of excitement with most and a lot of smiles.

Being part of this was a lot of fun. Watching the one rehearsal we had two days before as we stopped, started again, patched and mended the presentation, it was impossible to feel the potential continuity. But Wednesday during the live presentation, I felt the presentation could have not gone any better.

With the start of the program unfortunate-

ly delayed, Eric Skoog and Sylvia Bachmann got up on stage and started to entertain the crowd. In looking out at the audience, I saw a "community". Not just a bunch of people from town but people who were together as friends and neighbors. My thoughts were of the tremendous harmony with a near full theater and how great it was to see.

To all those who gave a presentation, to Roy Vogesser and the volunteers of the Donna Reed Foundation, the Blue Space Creative staff, the original project committee, to Fred and his staff who cooked the popcorn and served the drinks as well as to Al Roder and our city hall staff, and to all of you who came to support the effort, Thank you Denison. I hope you not only enjoyed what you saw but maybe learned a little something about what is really happening in our community.

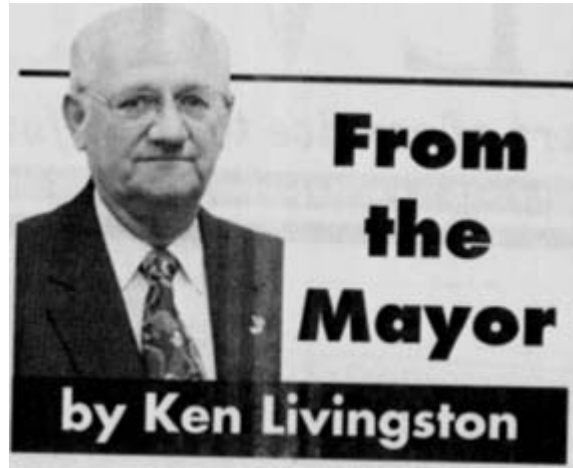
We are hoping that with the dim lighting that we will be able to come out with a suitable copy of the presentation. Although it's not the same as being there, it would be great if those who couldn't be there, could see and feel what I did. Every event of this type

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reminds me of Denison, the great town with great people. Thanks again for letting me be part of a great day with you.



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